



# Report to the President

April 2017

Institute for Socio-Economic Development Initiatives

## Sugarcane Block Farming

*Updates for Region XI, XII and the Negros Island Region*

### Region XI



ISEDI's Sugarcane Block Farming Project in Region XI to date has a total of 7.2 hectares with 4 hectares from PARBUF MPC and 3.2 hectares from COBARBEMCO. The areas are intended for the establishment of nurseries and demo farms to be planted with high yielding varieties of cane points. ISEDI, together with COBARBEMCO, are currently in the process of scouting for the remaining .8 hectare to complete the 8 hectares' requirement for the implementation of SBF Project in the area.

Soil Analysis of the farm in Davao del Sur was already conducted and the results were the basis for the purchase of farm inputs required. Land preparation for the farm

intended for sugarcane crops was done simultaneously with the soil analysis. All 7.2 hectares of land will undergo land preparation. Currently, 4 hectares have already undergone land preparation and have been planted with high yielding varieties - Phil 99-1793, PSR 2k-11, and PHIL 2k-171.

The area is also in the process of being geotagged to guide DAR and other stakeholders during their monitoring activities in locating the established HYV nurseries and demo farms areas using Google Earth.

For the capacity development, a two (2) day training on Sugarcane Growing was held for the 2 assisted ARBOs on April 26-27, 2017. Participants of the training were the ARBs who committed to participate in the SBF project. The training was conducted at the PARBUF MPC Training

Center. Mr. Edgar Aclao, an expert in sugarcane crop of SRA, was tapped as the resource person for the training.

Additionally, we have also conducted a baseline survey using questionnaires that were developed by the SBF team. Twenty five (25) PARBUF MPC members and 20 COBARBEMCO members were interviewed and their responses to the baseline survey will serve as the basis for future interventions.

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## Region XII

In Region XII, a formal MOA signing was conducted last April 25, 2017. The activity was attended by the chairman of the five (5) ARBOs, MARPOs, DFs and point persons from DAR Province of SBF Region 12. The activity's objective was to sign the MOA between the ARBOs and DAR which stipulates that the ARBO agrees to provide an area for the establishment of High Yield Variety Nurseries and Techno Demo Farm for the Sugarcane Block Farming. As the project service provider, ISEDI's role is to spearhead the entire process. ISEDI will lead and manage the implementation of the establishment of nurseries and techno demo farms.



Aside from the aforementioned activities, land preparation was conducted in all areas from disc plowing to furrowing. Our farmer beneficiaries are only waiting for the rain to start the planting activities as inputs were already purchased and are ready for application.

Overall, we are pleased to say that ISEDI's activities are right on track with the targets in Region XII.

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## Negros Island Region (NIR)



In NIR, we have also achieved most of the targets for the SBF implementation. For trainings, Modules 1-3 have been conducted for all ISEDI-assisted ARBOs. Modules 4-5 are expected to follow on the first week of May.

The nurseries for Lot 1, 11 and 12 have also been established and the accompanying irrigation pumps delivered. In Lot 11, 2 sets of water pumps were delivered to SURFACO, one to KASFARBECO, and five to LARBEMCO. In Lot 12, SYCIP was able to receive 2 and are waiting for two more sets. RAMPUCO received four sets while MAFFACO had two. Lot 1's



ARBOs each received a water pump, with the exception of NIEVES, which received three. These water pumps will be useful once planting has started.

As for the techno demo farms, most of the ARBOs except Lot 11's LARBEMCO, have already finished land preparation. Three ARBOs, Lot 11's SURFACO and KASFARBECO, and Lot 12's SYCIP have already done planting. The reason for LARBEMCO's delay is that they were also late in the harvesting of the existing crops.

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## Balik Uma Project

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*Updates for the "Upscaling the Balik-Uma Project: A Sustainable Agriculture Production Program and Reforestation for Food and Community Resilience"*

Our Balik Uma Project beneficiaries recently conducted their own meetings in accordance to what was discussed during the validation meeting with Mr. Marco Spada of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2017. Each community met to discuss what will be their priorities in the budget realignment as during the validation meeting, some farmer representatives expressed that farm animals, such as the carabao, are vital to their farm operations. To accommodate this, the budget must be realigned, hence the community consultation/meetings.



The meetings concluded that the communities in Mambusao, Bango, and Side 4 are in need of a total of eight (8) carabaos. On the other hand, eight (8) horses are needed in Side 4, Letter V, Mambusao and Bango. All five areas also requested for additional farm tools. To accommodate the PHP 660,000.00 considered necessary to purchase the carabaos and horses, and the additional farm tools, budget allocated for Equipment/Post Harvest Facilities, chicks, Food for Work, and infrastructure materials for a poultry farm will be reduced. During the consultation meetings, the farmers were also made to understand that in order for their requests to be catered, some trade-offs may and sacrifices have to be made.

Despite the request for realignment, there will be no changes in the project's total budget, implementation timeline, overall project duration, project location, beneficiaries, and project objectives, components and activities. The LGU counterpart will also remain the same.

A report containing this request has also been sent to the secretariat of the Philippines-Italy Debt for Development Program for their consideration.



# CCA-DRR

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## *Update on the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project Implementation in Davao del Sur*

A CCA-DRR Priority Areas Planning Session was conducted last April 6, 2017. Ms. Gloria N. Peñera, our Project Coordinator, facilitated the activity. Participants were composed of MARWABEMCO board of directors, officers and members. The planning session served as the concluding activity of the project between ISEDI-AdDU and DARPO Davao del Sur.

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# VLPCEP

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## *Update on the VLPCEP Project Implementation in Davao City*

As part of our on-going assistance for the DAR VLPCEP ARBOs, UTMPC and BARBCO, we have helped facilitate a water analysis of their products that is needed for the FDA LTO. Results of the analysis will be released on the month of May.

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# Up Valuing

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## *Updates on the Up- Valuing Project Implementation in Davao del Sur*

For the past month, we have conducted the remaining eight (8) trainings that were needed by the six (6) ARBOs involved in the project. Representatives from PARBUF MPC, SDMC, BUCOFA MPC, MONSARBCO, KMPC and BREAD MPC attended the following trainings:

- 1) Branding, Packaging and Labeling
- 2) Total Quality Management
- 3) Effective Marketing and Negotiation
- 4) Entrepreneurship and Business Management Skills
- 5) Productivity Enhancement
- 6) Inventory Management and Control
- 7) Product Evaluation and Critiquing
- 8) Product Costing and Pricing

We hope that with these trainings, the ARBOs' products will become competitive in the local, national and even in the global market.

